CLAIMS

1. A filtering body for a particle filter for purifying exhaust gases of an internal combustion engine, in particular a diesel engine, constituted by the assembly of a plurality of blocks (8 to 23) of adjacent, alternately closed, passages through lateral walls (24; 25) of which said exhaust gases are filtered,

wherein said blocks (8 to 23) are placed in at least a first filter region (12 to 23; 27) and a second filter region (8 to 11; 26), the gas filtering surface area, referred to the unit gas entry surface area of said body (7), being different in said first region (12 to 23; 27) and said second region (8 to 11; 26).

2. A filtering body according to claim 1, wherein the passages of the blocks of said first (12 to 23) and second (8 to 11) regions present an identical pitch and walls with different thickness.

3. A filtering body according to claim 1, wherein the blocks of said first (12 to 23) and second (8 to 11) regions present different surface densities of passages.

4. A filtering body according to claim 1, wherein said first region (12 to 23; 27) and second region (8 to 11; 26) respectively occupy a peripheral portion and a central portion of said filtering body (7) and the peripheral portion has a greater filtering surface area than the central portion of the filtering body (7).

5. A filtering body according to claim 1, which comprises at least one region of greater filtering surface area adapted to be located in operation in the vicinity of a heat source intended to initiate regeneration of said filtering body.

6. A filtering body according to claim 1, wherein the filtration surface area of one of said regions is at least 10% greater than that of the other region.

7. A filtering body according to claim 1 made from silicon carbide or cordierite.